

TITLE  
SOLID IMAGING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD WITH COATING STATION  
ABSTRACT

5        A solid imaging apparatus and method produces an integral three-  
dimensional object from a multiplicity of cross sectional portions of the object by  
selectively exposing successive layers of a liquid photoformable composition to  
actinic radiation. The apparatus includes a vessel for containing the composition  
so as to present a free surface, and a movable platform disposed within the vessel  
10 below the free surface. Part of the composition is transferred above the free  
surface by lowering and raising a dispenser at predetermined positions located  
away from the platform. A doctor blade contacts the composition transferred  
above the free surface, and then moves over the platform to form a substantially  
uniform layer of the composition.

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